

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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P 032135Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, BR

SUBJ: POPULATION - ANNUAL EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL PLANNED
PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF) AFFILIATE

REF: (A) STATE 283276; (B) BRASILIA 8099 (C) STATE 272483

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THE BRAZILIAN IPPF
AFFILIATE IS THE WELL-BEING FOR THE FAMILY (BEMFAM),
A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION.

2. SINCE THE USG HAS NEVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH
POPULATION PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT FOLLOWED
BEMFAM'S ACTIVITIES CLOSELY AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT ON SHORT NOTICE WITH MUCH FURTHER
SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION ON BEMFAM THAN THAT PROVIDED IN
REFTEL (B). AND BAIR'S VISIT REPORT (REFTEL C).

3. REGARDING THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED IN
PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTTEL (A), THE EMBASSY COULD MAKE THE
FOLLOWING GENERAL REMARKS:

A. APPARENTLY YES. THE DIRECTOR OF BEMFAM,
DR. RODRIQUES, IS ANXIOUS TO EXPAND HIS PROGRAMS AND
RESPOND TO REQUESTS OF ASSISTANCE FROM SEVERAL
STATE GOVERNMENTS IN BRAZIL. HE STATES THAT HE IS
PREPARED TO EXPAND HIS ACTIVITIES AS LONG AS HE CAN
FIND OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING.

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B., C., AND D.: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT

BEMFAM HAS POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION OF ITS ACTIVITIES, WHICH CURRENTLY INCLUDE VILLAGE BASED DISTRIBUTION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS AND OPERATIONAL FIELD TESTING.

COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, BEMFAM CONTINUES TO HAVE PROBLEMS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH IPPF. DR. RODRIGUES IS OF THE OPINION THAT (A) IPPF LACKS QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN ACCURATELY EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND NEEDS OF ITS AFFILIATES; AND (B) THAT IPPF HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO POLITICAL PRESSURES AND HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THOSE AFFILIATES WHO ACTUALLY DESERVE AND NEED FINANCIAL RESOURCES. HE HAS STATED THAT IPPF FUNDS HAVE BEEN FROZEN FOR BRAZIL AND THAT HE IS NOW RECEIVING NO MORE THAN HE RECEIVED THREE YEARS AGO. RODRIGUES HAS STATED THAT THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAS ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING IPPF SUPPORT MAY FORCE HIM TO AVOID DEALING WITH THAT ORGANIZATION IN THE FUTURE AND SEEK SUPPORT SOMEWHERE ELSE. (END COMMENT).
CRIMMINS

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